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Transmitted herewith for filing is the utility patent
application of: LAUNCE R. BARBER

For: COMBINATION CARABINER AND TOOL DEVICE

Enclosed Are:

1. Patent Application, 19 sheets
2. 3 Sheets of Formal drawings containing 3 figures
3. Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney, 2 sheets
4. Verified Statement claiming Small Entity Status, 1 sheet
5. Associate power of Attorney, 1 sheet
6. Information Disclosure Statement
7. Form PTO-1449, with copies of 9 references
8. Filing Fee in the Amount of \$380.00

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

BASIC FEE	SMALL ENTITY	\$380.00
TOTAL CLAIMS	(18 -20 = 0) x 9	\$ 0.00
IND. CLAIMS	(1 - 3 = 0) x 39	\$ 0.00
TOTAL		<u>\$380.00</u>

Additional fees due, if any, may be charged to Deposit Account
No. 12-1662 of the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b))--INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9 (c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41 (a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled below and in:

TITLE OF INVENTION

COMBINATION CARABINER AND TOOL DEVICE

 X the specification filed herewith.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9 (c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9 (e).

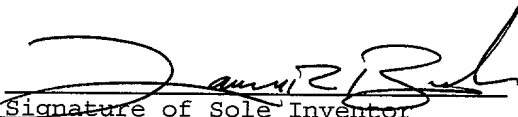
Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

 X no such person, concern or organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small business entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28 (b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

LAUNCE R. BARBER
Name of Sole Inventor


Signature of Sole Inventor

Date 8/2/99

Figure 1 consists of 12 scatter plots (a-l) showing the relationship between various parameters and the number of eggs per female (log scale). The parameters are: (a) Age, (b) Weight, (c) Length, (d) Total lipid, (e) Total protein, (f) Total carbohydrate, (g) Total ash, (h) Total water, (i) Total dry weight, (j) Total lipid, (k) Total protein, and (l) Total carbohydrate. Each plot includes a regression line and statistical data.

Parameter	Regression Equation	r ²	n	Significance
(a) Age	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.
(b) Weight	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.
(c) Length	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.
(d) Total lipid	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.
(e) Total protein	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.
(f) Total carbohydrate	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.
(g) Total ash	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.
(h) Total water	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.
(i) Total dry weight	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.
(j) Total lipid	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.
(k) Total protein	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.
(l) Total carbohydrate	$y = 0.0001x + 0.0001$	0.00	10	n.s.

OF

FOR A

COMBINATION CARABINER AND TOOL DEVICE

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COMBINATION CARABINER AND TOOL DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent
Application Serial No. 60/095,842, filed August 7, 1998.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to a carabiner
combined with at least one useful folding tool. More specifically,
the invention is directed to locking or nonlocking carabiners that
are used in combination with ropes by mountaineers to provide
useful tools which are predominately folded into the device such as
a knife, a saw, a can opener, Phillips or flat head screwdrivers,
a bottle cap opener, a saw, an Allen wrench, a claw-shaped ripping
hook, a pair of pliers, and a pair of scissors.

2. DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

Carabiners are well known for their utility and safety to
people engaged in mountaineering and rock climbing. Carabiners are

a type of fastener used to attach rope or to restrain or restrict climbing ropes in their movement. The carabiner is generally a metallic loop made up of a body in the form of a hook or C-shaped of which the rear, the straight, and the central portions are extended by curved loops, one at the top and one at the bottom, the free ends of which are connected, to close the loop by a gate. The gate is pivotally mounted to permit passage of rope into the loop and lockable to ensure the rope remains in place in the loop.

Although conceptually not complex, carabiners have been the object of improvements by generations of experienced users to extend their utility and to improve their safety. The related art of interest will be discussed in the order of perceived relevance to the present invention.

U.S. Patent No. 5,270,909 issued on December 14, 1993, to Richard S. Weiss et al. describes an openable carabiner-type handle attachment for a 6-volt battery equipped flashlight or a mug. The lock is spring-loaded and totally dissimilar in structure to the lock of the present invention. There is neither a suggestion or a teaching that a combination of folding tools can be substituted for the battery or mug to be carried.

U.S. Patent No. 5,329,675 issued on July 19, 1994, to Andrew McLean et al. describes a carabiner with a thumb grip. The thumb grip is attached as a fin or rib extending from the loop. A person's thumb may rest on the thumb grip, thereby contacting the loop in a particularly handy position. This allows a person to

orient or feel the carabiner during use. The carabiner device is distinguishable for not including any tools.

U.S. Patent No. 4,122,569 issued on October 31, 1978, to Thomas H. Hitchcock describes an integrated universal tool comprising a crescent wrench having its handle formed in parallel rails to contain three blades which are kept from pivoting out by a sliding keeper. The middle blade is a knife with a saw tooth edge at one end, a V-shaped notch in the middle, a curved recess shear blade and a crimping pin proximate the opposite end, and a flat blade screwdriver at the opposite end. One sideward blade comprises a flat blade screwdriver at one end, a cooperating V-shaped notch for stripping sheathed wires, a crimping wire notch proximate the opposite end, and a cooperating curved shear blade at the opposite end. The other sideward blade comprises a Phillips screw-driver at one end, a crimping notch, and a curved shear blade at the opposite end. The combination tool is distinguishable for its linear construction of the slotted crescent wrench handle and a sliding keeper.

European Patent Application No. E.P.O. 0 619 167 A1 published on March 19, 1994, for Carl V. Elsener, Sr. describes a Swiss folding blade knife and tool combination. The device comprises a handle into which fold a knife blade, a Phillips screwdriver, two combination bottle cap openers and flat head screwdrivers, and other elongated tools not describable. The combination knife and tool combination device is distinguishable as having a non-loop structure.

U.S. Patent No. 1,187,842 issued on June 20, 1916, to Eilef Kaas describes a combination tool comprising a pair of detachable side flanges removable by press-buttons and containing two saws, a gimlet, a file, a button lock, a bodkin, a corkscrew, a punch, a screwdriver, a can opener, a tape measure and pointer, a knife, and a combination nail and brush hinged from an arm containing an ear spoon. The multiple tool is distinguishable for its non-loop structure.

U.S. Patent No. 5,122,844 issued on May 25, 1993, to George C. Sessions et al. describes a pocket tool with retractable pliers jaws, cutting jaws or scissors and a pair of channel-shaped handles. The pivotally mounted ancillary tools include a knife blade, a serrated blade, a pair of scissors, a bottle opener, a pointed shaft, a flat head screwdriver, and a lanyard receiving hole. The pocket tool is distinguishable for its folding structure.

U.S. Patent No. 5,553,340 issued on September 10, 1996, to James D. Brown, Jr. describes a utility tool for making adjustments or repairs of a power chain saw. A hexagonal socket is present on the closed end of a cylindrical case member. The opposite open end has a loop and tunnels for a file, a flat head screwdriver and a pair of tweezers. A slot holds a pivoting slide member which contains other pivoting out tools such as a Phillips screwdriver, a star wrench, a flat head screwdriver, a knife blade, a second knife blade with a scooped end, and a combination wire tool with a file, a wire for cleaning oil holes, and a blunt edge for gapping

sparkplugs. The utility tool is distinguishable for its pivoting slide member with tools and encased tools.

Great Britain Patent Application No. 9237 published on August 29, 1896, for Rudolph Teichmann describes a combination hand tool for cyclists comprising movable jaw driven by a screw attached to a grooved handle containing the pivoting tools. The accessory tools comprise a tire valve removal tool, a file and pricker combination, an air tire lifter, a spanner, a hexagonal wrench, and a hooked pin forcer. The combination hand tool is distinguishable for lacking a loop structure.

Sweden Patent Application No. 106,956 published on March 23, 1943, for P.E.J. Larsen describes a combination hand tool comprising a pair of angled jaw pliers having a cutter region and a serrated crushing region in the jaws. The pivoting tools from the opposite in the grooved handle include a saw, a knife blade, and a combination flat head screwdriver, a can opener and a bottle cap opener. The tool is distinguishable for failing to have a loop structure.

There is a need in the art of mountaineering for tools which are effective for their intended use as well as being safe and handy. Moreover, none of the above patents, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant invention as claimed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention, an improved carabiner and tool combination device comprises a body forming a portion of a loop and a gate completing the loop, wherein the body includes a folding knife. The folding knife comprises an elongated storage slot which is integral with the carabiner body. A knife blade is pivotally mounted at one end on a pivot pin to move between a blade open position outside the storage slot and a blade closed position within the storage slot. A gate is connected to the carabiner body and is hingewise pivoted between an open position and a closed position. The body and gate form a closed loop when the gate is in the closed position.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a carabiner with four tools, each in the open position.

FIG. 2 is a side view of a carabiner in a closed tool position.

FIG. 3 is a an exploded view of the knife blade locking pin assembly.

Similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the attached drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In FIGS. 1 and 2, a combination locking or nonlocking carabiner and tool device 10 is formed into a curvilinear prolate loop body circumscribing an opening 12, through which the fingers may pass. It should be noted that the device 10 can be grasped by either inserting the fingers through the opening 12 or around the entire device 10. The opening 12 is formed from the combination of a carabiner body 14 defined by handle 20a, upper loop 20b, lower loop 20c, and gate 30. Preferably, the body 14 is comprised of mating halves 21a and 21b, for ease of manufacturing and assembly, wherein a cavity may be formed for the accommodation of the tools and features as described below. Alternatively, the body 14 can be a unitary body.

Gate 30 is conventional and pivotally mounted on gate pivot pin 32 which is spring-loaded and swings between a gate closed position to lock with a hook (not shown) as illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2 and a gate open position (not shown). Gate 30 is locked by rotating a knurled and internally threaded gate lock 34 in the closed gate position. Preferably, the loops 20b and 20c are ergonomically configured to include a prolapsed portion integrally formed by the gate 30. The prolapse is conformed to the fleshy portion of the palm of the hand below the thumb, thus permitting the carabiner to be comfortably held in the palm during its function as either a carabiner or the handle of an extended tool.

Within the carabiner body 14 is contained a folding knife comprising a handle 20a, a pivotally mounted knife blade 40, an elongated storage slot 42, and first pivot pin 44. Blade 40 pivots on first pivot pin 44 between an open blade position as shown in FIG. 1, and a closed blade position as depicted in FIG. 2. Knife blade 40 is ready as a cutting tool in the open blade position. In addition, the back of the blade 40 has a smooth portion 36 and a serrated sawing portion 38 to form a continuous profile with the prolapsed upper loop 20b of the carabiner body 14. In the closed blade position, blade 40 is safely contained in an elongated slot 42.

As is shown in FIG. 1 the device 10 can contain additional tools which are useful to a mountaineer and are particularly advantageous to have readily at hand. Can opener 46 is shown pivotally mounted on the first pivot pin 44. Knife blade 40 and can opener 46 pivot independently on a first pivot pin 44 inserted in apertures 45 (FIG. 3).

Two additional optional tools are shown in FIG. 1. A generic tool 52 is shown pivotally mounted on second pivot pin 54, as is a generic tool 56. Each tool 52 and 56 pivots about a second pivot pin 54 between an open tool position as shown in FIG. 1 and a closed tool position shown in FIG. 2, in which they are contained in elongated slot 42. The width of elongated slot 42 is defined by the number and size of tools contained therein in the closed position. Tools 46, 52 and 56 can be selected from a group of tools which are useful to have at hand including a second knife

blade, a bottle cap opener, a can opener, a saw, a flat head screw driver, a Phillips head screwdriver, an Allen wrench, a claw-shaped ripping hook tool, pliers, and scissors. In particular, the combination of a knife blade 40 and tool 46 selected as a can opener has been found to be useful. In another embodiment, the combination of a knife blade 40 and a tool 46 as a can opener with tool 52 and tool 56 selected as a flat head screwdriver and a Phillips head screw-driver has been found to be especially useful and handy.

Conventional Phillips-head screw- drivers have a crossed blade head in which each of the two crossed blades is identical. In an alternate configuration, one narrower or minor blade is combined with a larger or major blade to produce a Phillips head screwdriver having a flatter overall aspect. This type of Phillips head screwdriver fits particularly well into confined storage such as elongated storage slot 42, and is preferred in the combination carabiner device 10 shown in FIG. 1.

An additional tool is shown in FIG. 1. Bottle cap opener 58 is shown integral with lower loop 20a, and is generally defined as a notch with a sufficient lip 64 to act as a bottle opener. Bottle cap opener 58 provides an additional tool without the space limitation imposed by elongated slot 42. Bottle cap opener 58 is particularly handy because it does not require manual opening and is always readily at hand. Bottle cap opener 58 is also easily usable even when blade 40 or any one of tools 46, 52 and 56 is in the open position.

Also shown in FIG. 2 is aperture 60 in the lower loop 20a. Aperture 60 extends through lower loop 20c, and allows for the passage therethrough of suspension means 62 which is shown as a lanyard, but can be a key ring, key chain, leather lace, shoe lace, and the like useful means.

In FIG. 2, the combination carabiner and tool device 10 has two features which are configured for manipulation with the thumb of the right hand as an example. The features can be positioned on the opposite side of the tool for left-handed users. Attached to knife blade 40 is a thumb ridge 41 which assists in the movement of blade 40 from the blade closed position as shown in FIG. 2 to the blade open position shown in FIG. 1. Thumb ridge 41 is made of solid rubber or a polymer, and has a surface having a coefficient of friction which is easily engaged by the thumb even when wet with perspiration, slime and mud, and coated with dust or a glove. Thumb ridge 41 can be attached to a flat blade surface or for better adhesion, can fill a shallow pocket in the blade surface and extend above the surface as shown for maximum frictional contact with the thumb. The size of thumb ridge 41 is not critical, but it must be small enough not to interfere with the use of the knife and carabiner. Alternatively, thumb ridge 41 can overlap the back edge of the knife blade 40 to afford the versatility for either right- or left-handed persons.

Also shown in FIG. 2 is a triangular lock release button 70 which is manually operated by the thumb of the right hand. The triangular shape is exemplary as any shape which can be tactilely

felt aids in locating the geometrically different shaped button even in the dark. Alternatively, the lock release button 70 can be positioned on the opposite side for the convenience of left-handed users.

5 In FIG. 3, an exploded view of an exemplary locking pin assembly 66 of the invention is illustrated. Lock release button 70 is shown to protrude through a triangular slot 68 in the upper loop 20b so that it is readily accessible to the right thumb. Retaining means 71 holds the lock release button 70 within the
10 body. In this situation, retaining means 71 is a flange unitary with lock release button 70. Alternatively, retaining means 71 can be a collar, split ring, pin, tab or the like for accomplishing this purpose. Lock release button 70 is attached to an elongated shaft 73 formed of two parts, a lesser diameter shaft 72 and
15 greater diameter shaft 74. In this preferred example, the lock release button 70 and the elongated shaft 73 are a unitary piece formed from a single piece of metal. In the alternative, they can be formed separately and assembled by welding.

20 Within the lower end of greater diameter shaft 74 is spring cavity 76 which holds coiled spring 78. Coiled spring 78 urges the locking pin assembly 66 against the undersurface of upper loop 20a. The locking pin assembly 66 is entirely contained in pin assembly cavity 80, the lower end of which cavity is a surface within the body of upper loop 20a.

The function of locking pin assembly 66 is to releasably lock blade 40 into the open blade position. In the open blade position,

the greater diameter shaft 74 has a cross-sectional area sufficient to substantially fill slot 40a in blade 40. The greater diameter shaft 74, being held in an offset but coplanar arrangement by the surface of blade 40 during closed and semi-open angular positions of blade 40, is forced upward by spring 78 as the slot 40s passes directly overhead, thus permitting shaft 74 to align in the same plane as knife blade 40. As a result, blade 40 is prevented from further rotational movement and is restrained from pivoting about the first pivot pin 44.

The locking pin assembly 66 provides releasable locking of blade 40. When the lock is to be released, the lock release button 70 is manually pushed in, forcing the greater diameter shaft 74 downward, and freeing greater diameter shaft 74 from slot 40s in blade 40. As a result, blade 40 is free to pivot about the first pivot pin 44 from an open blade position to a closed blade position inside elongated slot 42. Alternatively, by placing an outwardly biasing coil spring 78 about lesser diameter shaft 72, the same purpose can be achieved.

Conventional locking knife assemblies such as liner locks, liner locks with slide button actuators and lockbacks can be employed in the present invention.

Materials of construction for the combination carabiner and tool device of the invention can be stainless steel or high quality alloy steel known for impact resistance and for being able to be machined to close tolerances. A manufacturer can also use metals in combination with plastic materials and other conventional

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the study population	
Age (years)	Mean (SD)
18-24	20.5 (2.5)
25-34	29.5 (4.5)
35-44	39.5 (5.5)
45-54	49.5 (6.5)
55-64	59.5 (7.5)
65-74	69.5 (8.5)
75-84	79.5 (9.5)
85-94	89.5 (10.5)
95-104	99.5 (11.5)
105-114	109.5 (12.5)
115-124	119.5 (13.5)
125-134	129.5 (14.5)
135-144	139.5 (15.5)
145-154	149.5 (16.5)
155-164	159.5 (17.5)
165-174	169.5 (18.5)
175-184	179.5 (19.5)
185-194	189.5 (20.5)
195-204	199.5 (21.5)
205-214	209.5 (22.5)
215-224	219.5 (23.5)
225-234	229.5 (24.5)
235-244	239.5 (25.5)
245-254	249.5 (26.5)
255-264	259.5 (27.5)
265-274	269.5 (28.5)
275-284	279.5 (29.5)
285-294	289.5 (30.5)
295-304	299.5 (31.5)
305-314	309.5 (32.5)
315-324	319.5 (33.5)
325-334	329.5 (34.5)
335-344	339.5 (35.5)
345-354	349.5 (36.5)
355-364	359.5 (37.5)
365-374	369.5 (38.5)
375-384	379.5 (39.5)
385-394	389.5 (40.5)
395-404	399.5 (41.5)
405-414	409.5 (42.5)
415-424	419.5 (43.5)
425-434	429.5 (44.5)
435-444	439.5 (45.5)
445-454	449.5 (46.5)
455-464	459.5 (47.5)
465-474	469.5 (48.5)
475-484	479.5 (49.5)
485-494	489.5 (50.5)
495-504	499.5 (51.5)
505-514	509.5 (52.5)
515-524	519.5 (53.5)
525-534	529.5 (54.5)
535-544	539.5 (55.5)
545-554	549.5 (56.5)
555-564	559.5 (57.5)
565-574	569.5 (58.5)
575-584	579.5 (59.5)
585-594	589.5 (60.5)
595-604	599.5 (61.5)
605-614	609.5 (62.5)
615-624	619.5 (63.5)
625-634	629.5 (64.5)
635-644	639.5 (65.5)
645-654	649.5 (66.5)
655-664	659.5 (67.5)
665-674	669.5 (68.5)
675-684	679.5 (69.5)
685-694	689.5 (70.5)
695-704	699.5 (71.5)
705-714	709.5 (72.5)
715-724	719.5 (73.5)
725-734	729.5 (74.5)
735-744	739.5 (75.5)
745-754	749.5 (76.5)
755-764	759.5 (77.5)
765-774	769.5 (78.5)
775-784	779.5 (79.5)
785-794	789.5 (80.5)
795-804	799.5 (81.5)
805-814	809.5 (82.5)
815-824	819.5 (83.5)
825-834	829.5 (84.5)
835-844	839.5 (85.5)
845-854	849.5 (86.5)
855-864	859.5 (87.5)
865-874	869.5 (88.5)
875-884	879.5 (89.5)
885-894	889.5 (90.5)
895-904	899.5 (91.5)
905-914	909.5 (92.5)
915-924	919.5 (93.5)
925-934	929.5 (94.5)
935-944	939.5 (95.5)
945-954	949.5 (96.5)
955-964	959.5 (97.5)
965-974	969.5 (98.5)
975-984	979.5 (99.5)
985-994	989.5 (100.5)
995-1004	999.5 (101.5)
1005-1014	1009.5 (102.5)
1015-1024	1019.5 (103.5)
1025-1034	1029.5 (104.5)
1035-1044	1039.5 (105.5)
1045-1054	1049.5 (106.5)
1055-1064	1059.5 (107.5)
1065-1074	1069.5 (108.5)
1075-1084	1079.5 (109.5)
1085-1094	1089.5 (110.5)
1095-1104	1099.5 (111.5)
1105-1114	1109.5 (112.5)
1115-1124	1119.5 (113.5)
1125-1134	

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CLAIMS

I claim:

1 1. A combination carabiner and tool device comprising:
2 a curvilinear body defining a prolate openable loop having a
3 handle region, an upper loop region and a lower loop region;
4 said curvilinear body having an elongated storage slot portion
5 in the handle region;
6 at least one tool pivotally mounted at one end to move between
7 an extended open position outside the storage slot portion and a
8 closed position within the storage slot portion; and
9 a gate element connected to the curvilinear body in the lower
10 loop region, pivotally mounted to move between an open position and
11 a closed position, the curvilinear body and gate element forming a
12 closed loop when the gate element is in the closed position.

1 2. The combination device according to claim 1, including a
2 locking mechanism capable of releasably locking at least one tool
3 in the open position.

1 3. The combination device according to claim 1, including a
2 locking pin assembly comprising:

3 a head which protrudes through a slot in the body and contacts
4 an elongated shaft;

5 the elongated shaft formed of two parts, a lesser diameter
shaft portion and a greater diameter shaft portion;

7 the greater diameter shaft portion having a cross-sectional
8 area sufficient to substantially fill an arcuate slot in the blade;
9 and

10 a coil spring in contact at a first end with the elongated
11 shaft and at a second end with the body.

1 4. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, wherein the at least one tool is a knife.

1 5. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 4, wherein the knife has a projecting thumb ridge for
3 manipulation of the knife in opening and closing relative to the
4 storage slot.

1 6. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 5, wherein the projecting thumb ridge overlaps the back edge
3 of the knife for enabling use by either a right- or left-handed
4 person.

1 7. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including at least one other folding tool to pivot
3 independently of the at least one tool.

1 8. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including a folding can opener as a tool mounted in the
slot portion.

1 9. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including a folding bottle opener as a tool mounted in the
3 slot portion.

1 10. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including a folding Phillips screwdriver as a tool mounted
3 in the slot portion.

1 11. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including a folding flat head screwdriver as a tool
3 mounted in the slot portion.

1 12. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including a folding saw as a tool mounted in the slot
3 portion.

1 13. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including a folding Allen wrench as a tool mounted in the
3 slot portion.

1 14. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including a folding pair of scissors as a tool mounted in
3 the slot portion.

1 15. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including a folding claw-shaped ripping hook tool mounted
3 in the slot portion.

1 16. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including a folding pair of pliers mounted in the slot
3 portion.

1 17. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including an external cutout with a lip in the lower loop
3 region for opening capped bottles.

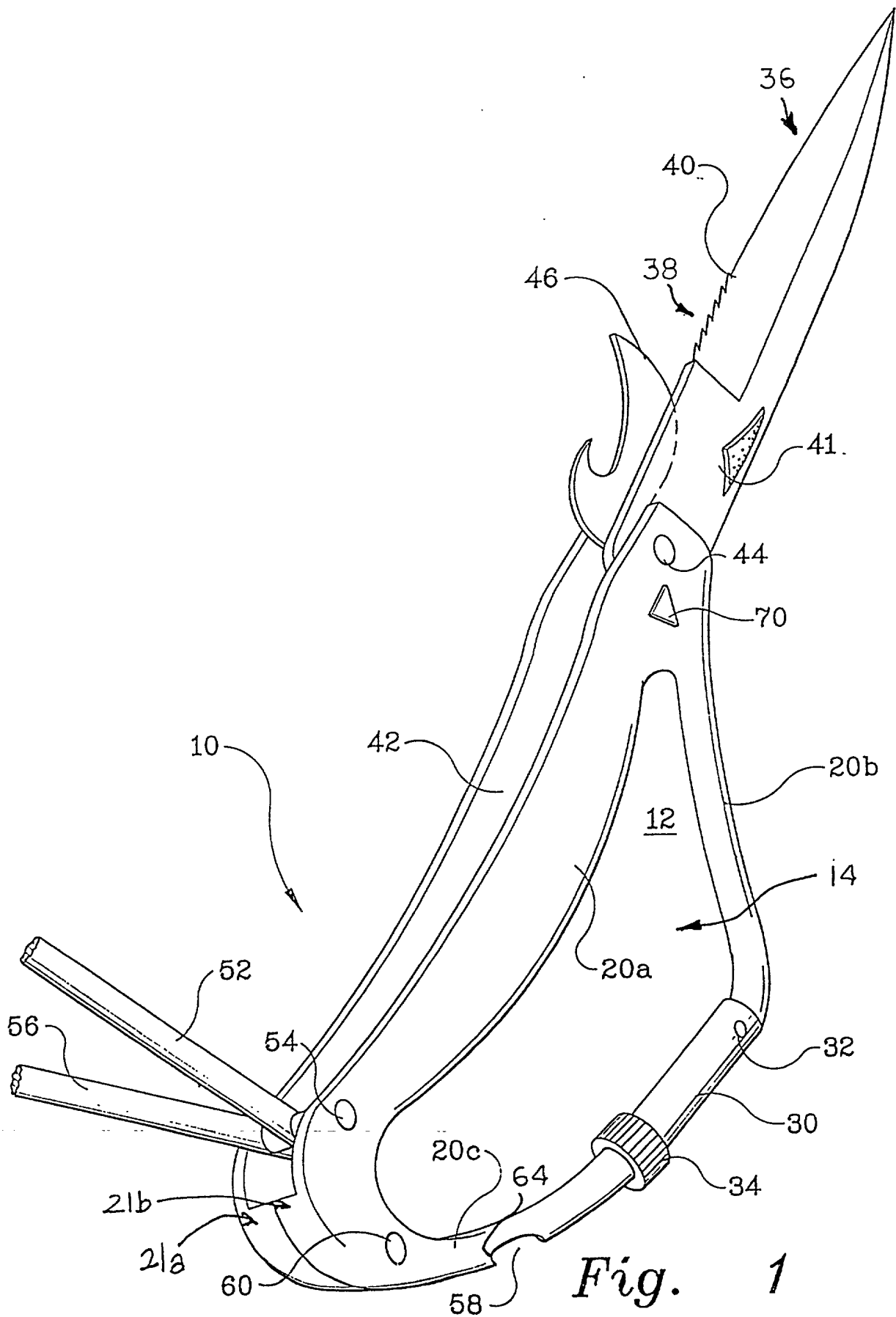
1 18. The combination carabiner and tool device according to
2 claim 1, including a locking feature for the gate element when in
3 the closed position.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

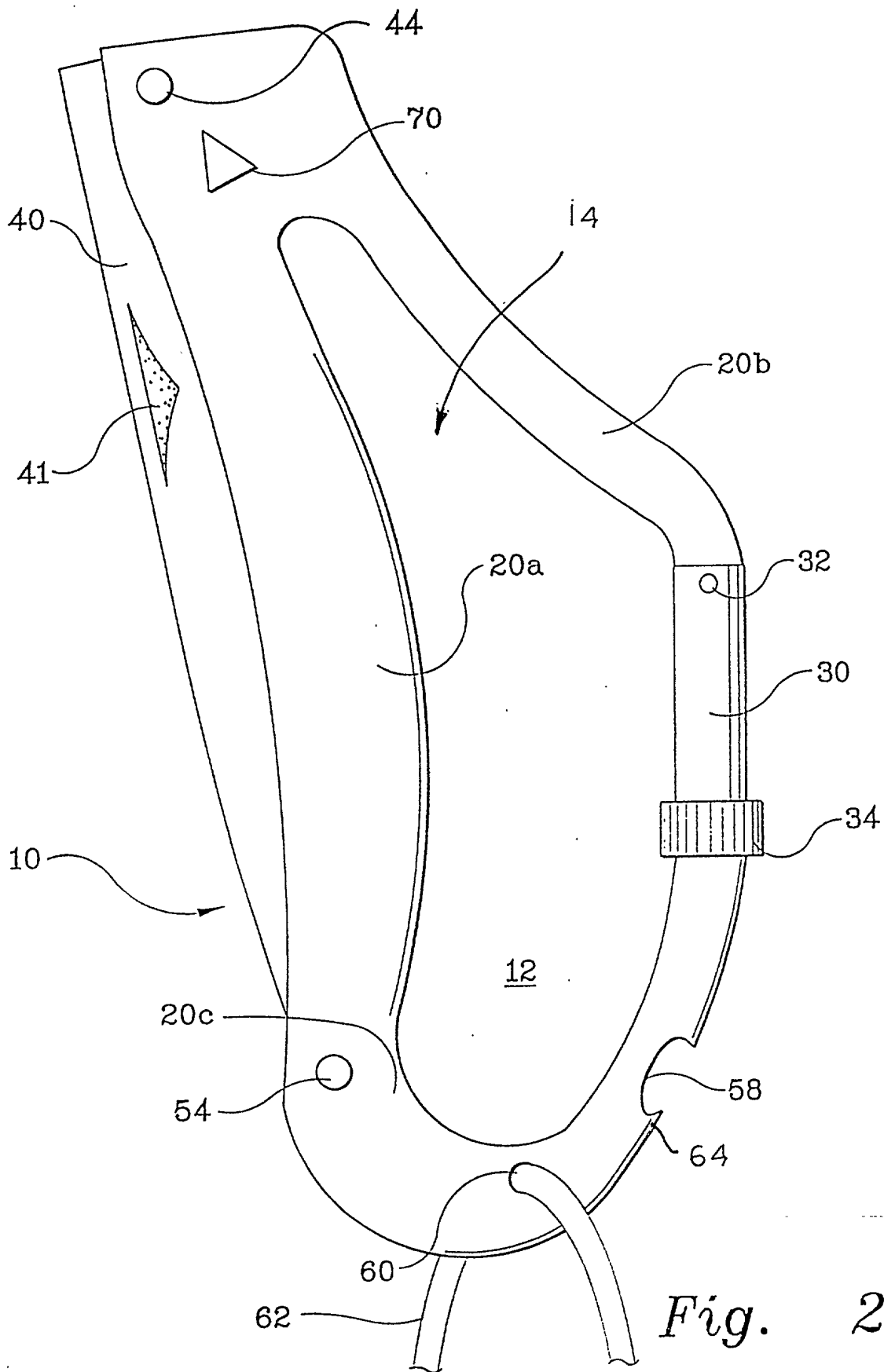
A combination carabiner and tool device comprises a curvilinear handle and a lockable gate to form a loop. In the handle is a folding knife and additional useful tools at both ends. A push button lock releasably holds the knife blade in the blade open position. The knife blade is pivoted into position and releasably locked by manipulation with the user's thumb.

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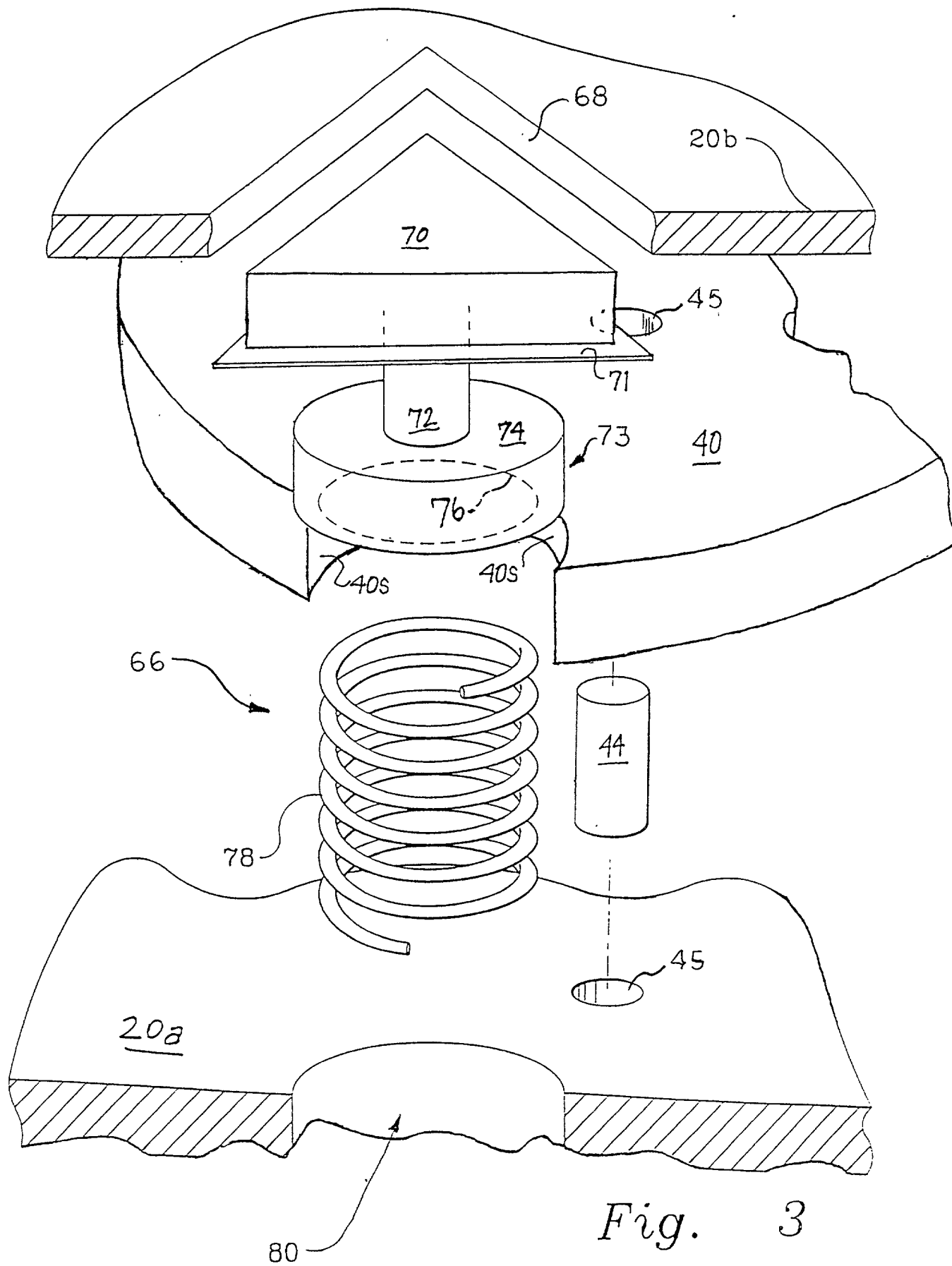
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COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

COMBINATION CARABINER AND TOOL DEVICE

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ was filed on _____ as United States Application Serial Number or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificates, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Not Claimed
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

60/095,842
(Application Number)

August 7, 1998
(Filing Date)

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

(Application No.) (Filing Date) (Status: patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application No.) (Filing Date) (Status: patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Richard C. Litman: Registration No. 30,868
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LITMAN LAW OFFICES, LTD.
P.O. Box 15035
Arlington, VA 22215

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole Inventor: LAUNCE R. BARBER

Signature: _____

Date: 8/2/99 Country of Citizenship: U.S.A.

Residence: 624 Gibson Drive
Vienna, VA 22180

Post Office Address: Same

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF:

APPLICANT : LAUNCE R. BARBER
SERIAL NO. : Unassigned ART UNIT: Unassigned
FILED : Herewith EXAMINER: Unassigned
FOR : COMBINATION CARABINER AND TOOL DEVICE

Box PATENT APPLICATION
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER for PATENTS
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

Sir:

ASSOCIATE POWER OF ATTORNEY AND APPOINTMENT OF AGENTS
37 C.F.R. 1.34(b)

Please recognize as Associate Attorneys in this case:

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Please recognize as Associate Agents in this case:

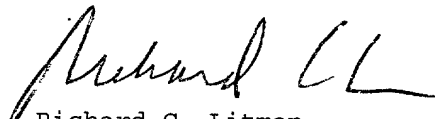
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The addresses and phone numbers of the above Attorneys and Agents are the same as that of the undersigned Principal Attorney.

All previous Associate Powers are hereby revoked.

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Respectfully submitted,



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RCL:gto